

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11855 161548Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1031

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, EEWT, UR
SUBJECT: ACCREDITATION OF US FIRMS FOR TWO YEARS

REF: STATE 193412

1. WHILE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET CONFIRMATION FROM ALL PARTIES MENTIONED BY MKRTUMOV, IT IS CORRECT THAT USSR HAS RECENTLY BEGUN GIVING SOME FIRMS ACCREDITATION FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD. LETTER OF MAY 31, 1977, FROM FORMER EMBOFF STEWART TO FORMER BEWT EMPLOYEE WILLIAM THORN, (COPY TO EUR/SOV) ADVISED THAT SATRA AND ENGELHARD HAD "RECENTLY RECEIVED EXTENSIONS VALID FOR TWO YEARS." WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED OF SUCH ACCREDITATION FOR HEWLETT-PACKARD. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR DOW CHEMICAL, AS STATED BY MKRTUMOV. WE ARE LOOKING INTO TITUTION OF THE THREE BANKS ACCREDITED HERE.

2. POST SUBMITTED VIA DS-4 NEW MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE REGULATION ON ACCREDITATION OF FOREIGN FIRMS IN THE USSR TO EUR/SOV ON JUNE 28, 1977, FOR TRANSLATION AND DISTRIBUTION TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES AS APPROPRIATE. DEPARTMENT'S TRANSLATION, A COPY OF WHICH WAS RECEIVED HERE ON JULY 25, PROVIDES (PARAGRAPH 4) THAT OFFICES OF FOREIGN COMPANIES, BANKS AND ORGANIZATIONS "SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR PERIODS WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE AIMS INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF THESE REGULATIONS, BUT AS A RULE FOR A PERIOD

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NOT EXCEEDING TWO YEARS." THIS WORDING SEEMS TO LEAVE BROAD FLEXIBILITY IN THE HANDS OF ACCREDITATING ORGANIZATIONS IN USSR AS TO THE TIME FRAME FOR WHICH ACCREDITATION IS GRANTED. PRESUMABLY, THIS COULD BE FOR EVEN LONGER THAN TWO YEARS. ALSO, IT COULD CONTINUE TO BE LESS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE GRANTING AUTHORITY.

3. MKRTUMOV STATEMENT THAT USSR IS PREPARED TO ACCREDIT
ADDITIONAL US FIRMS FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD PRESUMABLY MEANS
THAT SUCH A PERIOD WILL BE GRANTED TO FIRMS WHEN THE SOVIET
ORGANIZATION DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE, A HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE TEST.
IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THOSE US FIRMS WHICH HAVE ALREADY
RECEIVED THIS ACCREDITATION DID SO WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL
EFFORT ON THEIR PART; THEY SIMPLY RECEIVED TWO YEARS INSTEAD
OF THE CUSTOMARY ONE. (WE NOTE THAT 3 OF THE FIRMS HAVING 2-YEAR
ACCREDITATION - DOW, SATRA AND ENGLEHARD - BUY AS MUCH AS THEY
SELL IN THE USSR.) IF ACCREDITATION FOR A LONGER PERIOD THAN ONE
YEAR IS IMPORTANT TO A US FIRM, HOWEVER, WE SEE NO REASON
WHY IT SHOULD NOT MAKE AN EFFORT TO SECURE IT.
CONCEIVABLY TWO YEAR ACCREDITATION COULD BECOME SOMETHING OF
A MINOR STATUS SYMBOL, ALTHOUGH THE PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES
ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SUBSTANTIAL.

4. IN VIEW OF DEPARTMENT AND USDOC INTEREST, WE WILL
REPORT FURTHER REACTIONS FROM US FIRMS AND SOVIET OFFICIALS
ON THIS QUESTION.
TOON

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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